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GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
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**ROMNEY-HEALEY ADMINISTRATION
ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS
FOR CAPE COD TOWNS**

Executive office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard was on Cape Cod today to announce grants in the amount of \$1.3 million. On behalf of Governor Romney and Lt. Governor Healey, he will be announcing the grants in Wellfleet, Brewster and Dennis. The grants being announced are all focused on the protection and conservation of natural resources in the Commonwealth.

"I am very happy to see so much land and so many water supplies being protected," said Pritchard. "We have created a new model of stewardship partnering with local conservation trusts, municipalities and friends groups resulting in thousands of acres being protected throughout the Commonwealth. We have accomplished a great deal the past year and I look forward to the coming fiscal year when we will preserve even more land."

In Fiscal Year 06 EOEA protected 7,500 acres and has awarded 12 grants through the Conservation Partnership Program totaling \$310,000 and 27 grants through the Urban Self Help Grant Program totaling \$9.15 Million.

Secretary Pritchard along with Representative Shirley Gomes announced a Self-Help grant in the amount of \$351,000 for the Town of Wellfleet. The grant will be used to purchase a 5 acre parcel of land known as Whale Bone Point in Wellfleet. The coastal property is part of Fox Island Marsh and Pilgrim Spring Conservation area.

Representative Gomes said "I am pleased that we have been able to secure this funding for Whale Bone Point. It is critical that we maintain the natural beauty of the Lower Cape, and this adds onto public space in a critical area."

The Secretary later announced two grants in the Town of Brewster. The first grant, a Drinking Water Supply Grant, in the amount of \$500,000 will be used to purchase 26 acres in Brewster. The land is part of a watershed which includes eleven public wells and will remain undeveloped to prevent any type of well contamination in the future. The second grant will be given to the Brewster Conservation Trust through the EOEA's Conservation Partnerships Grant Program. This grant for \$35,000 will be used to purchase 4.23 acres located on Pine Pond in Brewster. Pine Pond is a coastal plain pond with documented rare species and excellent water quality due to minimal development in the area. The conservation of an additional 4.23 acres will prevent future development near the pristine pond.

In Dennis Secretary Pritchard announced an Urban Self-Help Grant to the Town of Dennis in the amount of \$500,000. This grant funding was used, in addition to generous donations from the Friends of Bass River Park and the Dennis Conservation Trust, to purchase 2.5 acres of coastal property which directly abuts the Bass River Park. The newly purchased 2.5 acres will be redeveloped along with the existing park into a waterfront public recreation park area which will include a new boat access to the Bass River.

For more information about EOEA grants please visit
<http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/default.htm>.

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